

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from the Dessau-Rosslau-Aken Area

25X1A

25X1 EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 15 July to 12 August 1953

25X1 DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 1 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

25X1X

1. On 20 July 1953, the cantonment east of Gross Kuehnau was occupied by not more than 50 troops. No training was observed. Between 15 and 19 July, a VP detail was seen working on the telephone lines which emerged from the camp. Work was later suspended.¹

25X1C 2. On 18 July, a column of 25 trucks, carrying pontoons and including [REDACTED] passed through Dessau, proceeding toward the Aken engineer camp.²

25X1 3. On 18 July, [REDACTED] a troop camp in a swamp on the north side of the Mulde River in the area northeast of Tierten. Several tents and well-camouflaged trucks were seen in the camp.³

4. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 3 August, a pontoon bridge was under construction south of the flax mill southeast of Steutz. Source did not observe any river crossings.⁴ At 6:45 a.m. on 5 August, about 50 trucks, occupied by troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets, and carrying pontoons and material for emergency bridges, were seen leaving the water training site southeast of Rossau proceeding toward Dessau-Mildensee to participate in an exercise. The column was followed by numerous senior officers in sedans. Motor vehicles [REDACTED] were observed.⁵ At about 5 p.m. on 10 August, 10 tank trucks, [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED] were seen en route toward Dessau, coming from the direction of Zerbst. At about 7:45 a.m. on 11 August, about 300 troops, armed with carbines, submachine guns and machine guns, left the barracks installation in Rossau, proceeding toward Dessau. Between 2 and 11 August, [REDACTED]

25X1C

25X1

25X1

25X1C

5. On 6 August, the barracks installation in Rossau was occupied as previously by about 800 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. On 3 August, about 200 troops received instruction on 5 x 76-mm guns, and 4 light and 6 heavy mortars;

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET/

25X1A

- 2 -

and engaged in field-wire laying in the training area on the road to Meinsdorf. On 5 August, 4 T-34/85 tanks and 2 JS-2 tanks were seen at driving practice in the former demolition area. Between 29 July and 6 August, intensive fatigue duty and maintaining of motor vehicles were observed in the barracks installation. [redacted]

25X1C

- 25X1 6. On 24 July, the cantonment east of Gross Kuehnau was occupied by about 150 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. [redacted] not observe any training activity. [redacted]

25X1

25X1C

7. On 24 July, the camp south of Brambach was occupied to capacity by troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets. On 20 July, the troops had left for bridge construction practices at the Elbe River. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation. [redacted]

25X1C

8. On 5 August, the barracks installation in Kochstedt was occupied by about 800 to 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Source did not observe any training activity. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation. [redacted]

25X1C

9. On 29 July, a major engineer column, including trucks and 6 heavy tractors, some loaded with heavy bridge building equipment, were seen en route from the camp on the Mulde River toward Dessau via Mildensee. [redacted]

25X1C

- 25X1 10. On 15 July, about 250 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets engaged in marksmanship training on the Elbe River south of Luckow. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen with practicing troops [redacted]

25X1C

On 17 July, a bridge construction practice across the stagnant branch of the Elbe River was observed about 2 km southeast of Schlangengrube. The bridge was about 70 meters long, about 6 meters wide and consisted of iron bridge sections on driven piles. The approach road branched off from the road to Coswig, between kilometermark 20.8 and 20.9. On 23 July, bridges were being constructed across the Mulde River. About 500 to 600 engineers were stationed in the area between Dessau and the autobahn bridge. [redacted]

25X1C

25X1C

SECRET

SECRET

25X1A

- 3 -

11. On 10 August, an undetermined number of troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets, and equipment were loaded on 22 flatcars with sideracks and 28 boxcars at the Aken railroad station. [redacted] 25X1C 25X1
- [redacted] A similar loading was observed on 11 August. On 12 August, about 140 to 160 troops were loaded on 8 boxcars; and motor vehicles, [redacted] were loaded on 24 flatcars with sideracks. 25X1C
- 25X1A 1. [redacted] Comment. The cantonment east of Gross Kuehnau has continually been occupied by a rear detail of the 7th Gds Tank Div since April 1953. During the demonstrations in June, tanks and armored scout cars of the 6th Gds Tank Div from Wittenberg had been stationed there for short periods of time. [redacted] 25X1A
- 25X1A 2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] 25X1C
- [redacted] the column presumably belonged to the unidentified engineer regiment of the GDFG, which was stationed in the camp east of Hirschleckerdamm, south of the Elbe River, between Rietzneck and Brambach. See paragraph 7.
- 25X1A 3. [redacted] Comment. Engineer units of the GDFG also held exercises on the Mulde River southeast of Dessau in 1953. [redacted] 25X1C 25X1
- [redacted] the 36th Pon Bridge Regt stationed in the area southeast of Rossau practiced in the abovementioned area between mid-July and early August. 25X1
- 25X1A 4. [redacted] Comment. Engineer units of the Eighth Gds Army used to practice in this area. [redacted] 25X1A
- 25X1 5. [redacted] Comment. Several sources constantly confirmed the barracks installation in Rossau occupied by the large rear detail of the 7th Gds Tank Div. This detail is fairly definitely believed to include the unidentified tank training battalion of this division. [redacted] 25X1A
- 25X1A 6. [redacted] Comment. In early August, another source also confirmed the barracks installation in Kochstedt occupied by the 62d AAA Div (US). Between 6 and 15 August, AAA units were rotated to Mustrow for firing practices. [redacted] 25X1A
- 25X1A 7. [redacted] Comment. According to reports on transportation, four shipments went from Aken to the Erfurt regional railroad district between 10 and 13 August. The unloading of one of these trains was observed in Eisenach. It, therefore, can be concluded that the engineer units of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps left the Dessau-Aken area on these trains. The engineer units of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps are believed to have returned to Thuringia as early as 4 July. Thus, the new motor vehicle [redacted] presumably belong to an engineer unit of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps. 25X1C

SECRET